

REMARKS

Claims 5, 8, 9, and 11 remain in the application and claims 5 and 9 have been amended hereby. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 10 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 12 and 13 have been added.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Mullor et al. in view of Asai et al.

Features of the software program rights management system according to the present invention are a license database for storing authorization data for a user, and a storage medium for storing the program and the authorization data for the user. When the storage medium is transferred to another user and a predetermined payment is made, the authorization data for the user is rewritten with authorization data for the other user in the license database and in the storage medium.

An advantage of these features of the present invention is that the ownership of the storage medium can be transferred while protecting the copyright.

Independent claims 5 and 9 have been amended to recite these features of the present invention.


It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Mullor et al. and Asai et al. fails to show or suggest that when a storage

medium is transferred to another user and a predetermined payment is made, authorization data is rewritten in a license database and in the storage medium. Mullor et al. is merely teaching a method for restricting the use of a program downloaded into a computer's volatile memory, unrelated to the claimed software program storage medium, and Asai et al. is merely teaching a method for restricting the use of computer game software to an authorized game machine.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 5 and 9, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Mullor et al. in view of Asai et al.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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